

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Decision on Appeal of January 15, 2009 which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-20 and 22-23 remain in this application, where claim 2 had been previously canceled without prejudice, and claims 10 and 21 have been currently canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 7, 14, 17, 18, 22 and 23 are independent.

The Decision on Appeal rejects claims 1 and 3-13 under new grounds, namely, under 35 U.S.C. §101. In response, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection of claims 1 and 3-13 is respectfully requested.

Further, the Decision on Appeal reversed the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) of claims 1, 3-6, 10, 14-17 and 21-23 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,758,257 (Herz); and affirmed the

rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) of claims 7-9, 11-13 and 18-20 as being anticipated by Herz.

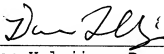
In response, independent claims 7 and 18 have been amended to include the features of claims 10 and 21, respectively, which have been canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 7 and 18 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8-9, 11-13 and 19-20 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 7 and 18.

Further, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 14, 17, 22 and 23 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-6 and 15-16 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 14.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101